

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's comments that inclusion of a reference in the Specification is not a proper Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS"). As such, Applicant submits herewith an IDS citing Patent No. SE516999, along with a copy of the cited reference, an English translation of the abstract, and the required fee. A concise explanation of the cited references was previously included in Applicant's specification (Page 2, Lines 11-12).

The office action and cited reference have been carefully considered. The claims have not been amended as they are believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eichel (U.S. Pat. No. 6,266,437). Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Eichel, or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Eichel. Eichel discloses a system for monitoring webs 10 for printing-related defects (Eichel, Col. 1, Lines 42-50). The monitoring process is carried out by forming a real-time image of a web frame and comparing the image to a template or "exemplar" frame by comparing sampled pixels 19 of each (Eichel, Col. 2, Lines 31-49). The system then flags a frame as being defective when a predetermined level of differences is found. (Id.)

In contrast, Applicant's disclosure is directed to analyzing the surface structure of webs to determine the presence and severity of shrinking creases or other

types of creases in the web occurring during the web manufacturing process. The present application does not compare a sample image with a set template or exemplar image. Instead, shrinking creases are determined by analyzing the variance of pixels values taken from each of a series of images from a moving web.

Specifically, claim 1 recites, among other things, an evaluation step including “a first analysis operation in which the variance of the pixel values in each pixel row in each image in the image sequence is determined.” On the other hand, Eichel compares pixel values between two different frames having printed material (i.e., the image frame and the template frame) to determine the degree of similarity between the two. See, for example, Eichel, Col. 2, Lines 38-43, stating “[t]he present invention may comprise...a comparitor for comparing elements of an exemplar frame with corresponding elements of a real-time image from said imaging means. The comparitor uses sequential detection on each pair of elements to provide an acceptable indication if the pair of elements are determined to be statically identical.” Eichel does not disclose or suggest analyzing pixels within the same row of each image in a single image sequence, as called for in claim 1.

The evaluation step in claim 1 further recites “a second analysis operation in which the mean value of the variances of all pixel rows of all images in the image sequence is calculated.” Again, while Eichel discloses methods for comparing pixel values between an image and a template frame, it fails to disclose determining the variance of the pixel values for each image in the image sequence, and therefore also fails to disclose calculating a mean value of those variances, as recited in claim 1.

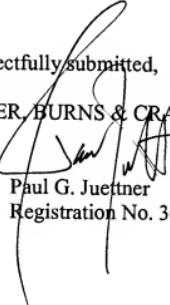
Similarly, claim 9 recites, among other things, a device with an image analysis system that is “arranged to calculate the variance in the pixel values in each row in each image in the image sequence,” which is not disclosed by Eichel. Since Eichel fails to teach or suggest several of the features recited in claims 1 and 9 as discussed above, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been made. It is respectfully requested that the rejections of claims 1 and 9 be withdrawn. Finally, since the rejections of all independent claims have been overcome, it is further requested the corresponding rejections for dependent claim 2-7 also be withdraw.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in allowable form and requests that all claims be reconsidered and allowed. Should the Examiner discover there are remaining issues which may be resolved by a telephone interview, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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